<u>Image Analysis: Theodore Roosevelt on Maneuvers with Kaiser Wilhelm, c. 1910</u> Historical Question:

• To what extent does this picture illustrate the contrasting nature of the United States of America and the German Empire in 1910?



National Standard:

- National Social Studies Standard (Grades 5-12) U.S. History Era 7: The Emergence of Modern America (1890-1930)
 - o Understanding the changing role of the United States in world affairs through World War I
- National Social Studies Standard (Grades 5-12) World History Era 8: A Half Century of Crisis and Achievement, 1900-1945
 - o The causes and global consequences of World War I

Common Core:

- Grades 6-8
 - o Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
 - <u>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.6-8.7</u> Integrate visual information (e.g., in charts, graphs, photographs, videos, or maps) with other information in print and digital texts.
- Grades 9-10
 - Key Ideas and Details
 - <u>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.9-10.1</u> Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, attending to such features as the date and origin of the information.
- Grades 11-12
 - Key Ideas and Details
 - <u>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.1</u> Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of primary and secondary sources, connecting insights gained from specific details to an understanding of the text as a whole.
 - o Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
 - <u>CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RH.11-12.7</u> Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in diverse formats and media (e.g., visually, quantitatively, as well as in words) in order to address a question or solve a problem.

Overview:

At the turn of the twentieth century, European countries were on the verge of total war as imperialistic pursuits, growing militaries, and rapid industrialization spurred nationalism throughout the continent. In the first decade of the twentieth century, Theodore Roosevelt (1901-1909) assumed the Office of the President following the assassination of William McKinley. In domestic affairs, Roosevelt implemented a progressive agenda which included conservationism and the "Square Deal". In foreign policy, Roosevelt adopted the slogan "Walk Softly and Carry a Big Stick" and hence sent the Great White Fleet around the world, negotiated the Treaty of Portsmouth ending the Russo-Japanese War, and discouraged European territorial pursuits in Latin America.

In 1909-1910, former President Roosevelt left the United States touring Africa and Europe. During this trip, he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in negotiating the Treaty of Portsmouth and encouraging arbitration instead of warfare. After accepting the prize, Roosevelt went to Germany to visit Kaiser Wilhelm II, meeting him at the palace of Frederick the Great. The following day, Kaiser Wilhelm and Roosevelt watched German military maneuvers as 12,000 German soldiers simulated a mock engagement showing the power of the German Empire. Historian Patricia O'Toole noted that during the visit Roosevelt and the Kaiser discussed the growing resentment between Germany and England as well as the increase in the British and German navies. (Note: During Roosevelt's tour in Europe, he also witnessed military maneuvers in Austria, Italy, and France.)

Henry White and the White Papers at Hampton National Historic Site:

Hampton Natonal Historic site is a unit of the National Park Service that preserves the core of a once vast estate. The park is comprised of a large mansion in the Georgian architectural style, formal gardens, slave quarters and numerous other outbuildings. Hampton NHS is a people's story, focusing on not only the Ridgely family who owned the estate, but the workers enslaved and free, as well as the changing economic and social trends that made the wealthy lifestyle possible. Henry White (1850-1927) spent some of his early life at Hampton in the company of his grandmother, Eliza Ridgely. In addition, Henry White spent much of his adolescence in Europe being schooled by and traveling with his pious and rather formidable mother. This unconventional education in manners and morals prepared him for a distinguished career in diplomacy. Often referred to as America's 'first career diplomat,' Henry spent 30 years in the U.S. Diplomatic Service, serving as First Secretary at the U.S. Embassy in London and as Ambassador to both Italy and France before retiring in 1909. In 1910, Henry White traveled with Roosevelt throughout Europe assuming the functions of his chief of staff. In Henry White: Thirty Years of American Diplomacy (1930), Allan Nevins, a historian and biographer, stated the following about Henry White's experience in Germany:

"In Berlin, White accompanied the ex-President when, on the day of his arrival, he lunched with the Kaiser and von Bethmann-Hollweg at the "Neues Palais" in Potsdam. The following day the Kaiser invited Roosevelt and White to go with him on some striking army manoevers, where five hours were spent in the saddle, they and Kermit Roosevelt being the only civilians present. White wore tweeds and Roosevelt khaki; the Kaiser was of course resplendent in uniform. The scene was impressive, the helmeted troops wheeling past in long files, the Kaiser stiffly saluting, while the ex-President raised his hat from time to time. At the beginning of the review William II, surrounded by his officers, said with impressive formality, in German: "Roosevelt, mein Freund, I wish to welcome you in the presence of my Guards; I ask you to remember that you are the only private citizen who has ever joined the Emperor in reviewing the troops of Germany." As White later said, the Kaiser's speech and his emphatic use of the phrase "mein Freund," seemed to those who knew the strict military discipline of Germany a signal act of homage. "

Nine years later, Henry White was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson as a member of the American Commission to Negotiate Peace in Paris in 1918-19, ending World War I.

The Henry White Family Papers (1820-1990) consists of Henry White's professional and diplomatic papers, personal and professional correspondence, financial records, diaries, scrapbooks, and papers of family members.

Questions for Discussion:

- Describe the posture and dress of former President Roosevelt and Kaiser Wilhelm II. How do the two leaders personify their respective countries?
- Describe the German soldiers in the background.
- Are other Americans present in the picture? If so, how are they dressed?
- Describe the camera shot. What is the central focus? What is on the periphery?
- What is former President Roosevelt witnessing? Why may Kaiser Wilhelm II desire to show the former President a mock military engagement? What may have happened before, during and after this shot?
- Why may the former President Roosevelt have chosen to visit Germany in 1910? Why may the former President have gone to Germany after winning the Nobel Peace Prize? Should President Taft be on the trip instead of former President Roosevelt?
- Does the meeting between Kaiser Wilhelm and President Roosevelt support the President's foreign policy of "Walk Softly and Carry a Big Stick"?
- Display the excerpt from <u>Henry White: Thirty Years of American Diplomacy</u>. To what extent does the image complement Allan Nevins' account of Roosevelt and White's trip to Germany in 1910?
- Was America aware of the growing tension in Europe?

Image Analysis:

- Kaiser Wilhelm II and former President Roosevelt are shaking hands on horseback.
- Former President Roosevelt is facing the camera. He is wearing a Stetson hat, which personifies the American west.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II has his back to the camera. He is dressed in military uniform and wearing a Pickelhaube, a spiked helmet.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II has a saber attached to him.
- Kaiser Wilhelm II is an estimated 5'7" tall. President Roosevelt is an estimated 5'10".
- Kaiser Wilhelm II is shaking Roosevelt's hand with his right hand since his left hand was deformed.
- The American in the derby hat on the left hand side of the picture is Henry White.
- The American on the right hand side of the picture is possibly Kermit Roosevelt, Theodore's son.

Additional Resources:

- Black and White Footage: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69PSU6DooVo
- NPR: All Things Considered: http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=828670
- O'Toole, Patricia. When Trumpets Call: Theodore Roosevelt After the White House, 2004.
- Nevins, Allan. <u>Henry White: Thirty Years of American Diplomacy</u>, 1930.

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